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Apply the Big Stick

One item of unfinished business before the Senate ought to remain unfinished when Congress adjourns after its brief new session. This is the proposal to implant a 50-foot celestial sphere on



Theodore Roosevelt Island, supposedly as a memorial to the Great Conservationist. In a moment of distraction, the House approved spending \$886,000 for this object, which looks like a cog from Big Ben or an onion ring fried in molten bronze. The mood of hilarity in which the House acted

is reflected in the headline carried in this newspaper's July 2 edition: "Joking House Votes to Erect TR Memorial."

We trust that the Senate will show equal hilarity in laughing the project into limbo. Rather than spending money on a geegaw appropriate to the radiator cap of Jack Benny's Maxwell, the Senate, if it feels moved to spend, ought to put the \$886,000 in a trust fund for the preservation of Roosevelt Island as a sanctuary for enjoyment of a quiet forest. Since the new Constitution Avenue bridge will link the island to the city, the added money might be used to good purpose in providing parking lots away from the island or in keeping beer cans and bottle caps to a minimum. Teddy Roosevelt, we feel confident, would prefer to let nature speak softly while applying a big stick to the proposed metallic melon-rind. His grandson Kermit's verdict could have come from the lips of TR himself: "Good Lord!"